

## PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

**Licensing Authority** Jan Scheffert  
Board of Physical and Occupational Therapy Examiners  
Iowa Department of Public Health  
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**Legal Authority** Code of Iowa, Chapter 148A; Iowa Administrative Code 645, Chapters 200-205

**Job Description** Physical therapy assistants work under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist to implement treatment programs according to the plan of care. They train patients in exercises and activities of daily living, conducting treatments, using special equipment, administering modalities and other treatment procedures and reporting to the physical therapist on the patient's responses.

**Education & Experience Required** Applicants must complete a course of study for the physical therapist assistant accredited by a national accreditation agency approved by the board. They must also pass the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE) or other nationally recognized equivalent examination as defined by the board.

If foreign trained, an applicant must provide an English translation and an equivalency evaluation of their education credentials by the Foreign Credentialing Commission on Physical Therapy, Inc.; International Educational Research Foundations, Inc.; Credentials Evaluation Service; International Consultants of Delaware, Inc.; or, International Credentialing Associates, Inc. The professional curriculum must be equivalent to the American Physical Therapy Association standards.

Applicants must also submit proof of proficiency in the English language by achieving a score of at least 560 on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) paper exam and a score of at least 200 on the computer exam administered by Educational Testing, Services, Inc.

**Continuing Education** Twenty hours of continuing education are required biennially for license renewal.

**Examination** To practice in Iowa, graduates of approved programs must successfully pass the National Physical Therapy Assistant examination.

**Fees** Application: \$100  
Duration: Two years

Renewal: \$50

Exam: \$285 – Information given upon approval from the board.

**SOC Code, Title & Avg. Hourly Wage** 31-2021 – Physical Therapist Assistants (\$13.83)

**Number of Licenses Issued** Total number of licenses active as of December 31,  
2002: 1,633  
2001: 795

**For Additional Information** Iowa Department of Public Health Web site:  
<http://www.idph.state.ia.us/licensure>